

Message Text

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UNCLAS STATE 226155

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 226155 ACTION ALGIERS 14 OCT

QUOTE

UNCLAS STATE 226155

TOSEC 203

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER)

SUBJECT:PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT LESLIE H. GELB BYLINER MONDAY,
OCTOBER 14, WASHINGTON POST HEADED "SENATE UNIT CHARGES U.S.
WITH USING CYPRUS RELIEF TO HELP TURKEY."

-. A SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ISSUED A REPORT TODAY CHARGING
THE ADMINISTRATION WITH USING HUMANITARIAN RELIEF ON CYPRUS
FOR POLITICAL ENDS.

3. AT THE SAME TIME, A STATE DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM HAS
BEEN OBTAINED THAT TENDS TO CO FIRM THESE CHARGES
IN EMPHASIZING THE "POLITICAL ADVANTAGES" TO WASHINGTON
AND ANKARA OF RELIEF AID TO CYPRIOTE REFUGEES.

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4. SENATOR EDWARD M. KENNEDY, CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON REFUGEES, CHARGED THE FORD ADMINISTRATION WITH PROVIDING HUMANITARIAN RELIEF "IN THE CONTEXT OF PROMOTING TURKISH INTERESTS RATHER THAN IN PURSUING A RESOLUTION OF THE CRISIS WHICH WILL PERMIT THE RETURN OF REFUGEES TO THEIR HOMES."

5. TURKEY AND RELIEF AID. IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT MEMO, "HUMANITARIAN RELIEF ON CYPRUS," WHICH WAS OBTAINED BY THE NEW YORK TIMES, IT IS SAID THAT THE RELIEF EFFORT COULD TAGES IF IT WAS FRAMED IN A POLITICAL CONTEXT (TEXT AS CARRIED BY NEW YORK TIMES).

6. SPECIFICALLY, THE MEMO REFERRED TO RELIEF AID AS A WAY TO "IMPROVE THE POLITICAL CLIMATE" FOR NEGOTIATIONS, DEMONSTRATE A "BALANCED POLICY," AND AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO STRENGTHEN TURKEY'S "INTERNATIONAL IMAGE" AND "BARGAINING POSITION."

7. HIGH STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS SAID THE MEMO HAD "NO STATUS," THAT IT WAS A "THINK-PIECE," NOT APPROVED AT POLICY LEVELS. IT WAS LEARNED, HOWEVER, THAT THE MEMO WAS GIVEN BY JOSEPH J. SISCO, THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS, TO WILLIAM CRAWFORD, THE NEW UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR TO CYPRUS, AS PART OF THE AMBASSADOR'S BRIEFING BOOK.

8. MR. CRAWFORD LEFT FOR HIS NEW ASSIGNMENT ON AUG. 29, AND AND HE USED THE MEMO TO BRIEF HIS STAFF ON THE PURPOSE OF HUMANITARIAN RELIEF. HE REPLACED AMBASSADOR RODGER P. DAVIES, WHO WAS KILLED THIS SUMMER BY A STRAY BULLET WHEN THE EMBASSY IN NICOSIA WAS BESIEGED BY AN ANGRY CROWD OF GREEK CYPRIOTES.

9. WHILE TWO HIGH STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS INSISTED THAT THE MEMO REPRESENTED ONLY "THE PERSONAL VIEWS OF TWO POLICY PLANNERS," THEY BOTH TERMED IT A "GOOD MEMO," GIVEN ITS LIMITATION.

10. "WHAT IT DOES NOT COVER," ONE OFFICIAL SAID, "IS OUR UNCLASSIFIED

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SIMPLE DESIRE TO PREVENT PEOPLE FROM STARVING. AND YOU'VE GOT TO REMEMBER WE STARTED THE RELIEF EFFORT BEFORE THAT PIECE OF PAPER WAS WRITTEN."

11. SENATOR KENNEDY'S STAFF REPORT ON CYPRUS COMES AT A TIME WHEN CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENT ARE AT ODDS OVER CONTINUED MILITARY AID TO TURKEY. CONGRESS HAS VOTED TO STOP THAT AID AND THE PRESIDENT HAS THREATENED A VETO.

12. THE SUBCOMMITTEE STAFF, WHICH RECENTLY RETURNED FROM A STUDY MISSION TO CYPRUS, CITES WHAT IT CALLS WASHINGTON'S "TILT" TOWARD TURKEY AS THE MAIN OBSTACLE TO AN EASING OF THE CYPRIOTE REFUGEE SITUATION.

13. THE REPORT STATES THAT ROUGHLY HALF THE POPULATION OF CYPRUS, OR ABOUT 282,000 PEOPLE, CAN BE CLASSIFIED AS REFUGEES OR DETAINEES. OF THAT TOTAL, 194,000 ARE GREEK CYPRIOTES DISPLACED FROM THEIR HOMES IN AREAS NOW OCCUPIED BY TURKISH MILITARY FORCES.

14. 'KEEP REFUGEES CONTAINED'. THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS AND UNITED NATIONS RELIEF PERSONNEL, ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, ARE DENIED "FREE ACCESS TO NEEDY GREEKS IN TURKISH-OCCUPIED AREAS." THE REPORT CALLS UPON THE UNITED STATES "TO USE ITS VAST INFLUENCE AND GOOD OFFICES WITH TURKEY TO PERSUADE IT TO ALLOW THE RETURN OF A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF GREEK CYPRIOTE REFUGEES TO THEIR HOMES, AS A FIRST STEP -- A "GESTURE OF GOODWILL" -- WHICH MOST OBSERVERS IN THE FIELD BELIEVE WILL BREAK THE DEADLOCK OVER THE RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS."

15. IN GENERAL, THE REPORT CHARGES THAT THE AMERICAN RELIEF EFFORT IS GEARED TO MEETING POLITICAL AIMS, NOT HUMANITARIAN CONCERNS. SPECIFICALLY, ITS AUTHORS MAINTAIN THAT AMERICAN RELIEF GOALS INCLUDE "THE NEED TO KEEP THE REFUGEES CONTAINED SO AS TO BUY TIME TO ASSIST ANKARA IN CONSOLIDATING ITS POSITION ON THE ISLAND."

16. THE STATE DEPARTMENT MEMO USED BY AMBASSADOR CRAWFORD DOES NOT REFER TO KEEPING "REFUGEES CONTAINED," BUT IT DOES BEAR ON THE ISSUE OF TURKEY'S POSITION. IT UNCLASSIFIED

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STATES THAT THE RELIEF EFFORT "WOULD OFFER TURKEY AN OPPORTUNITY TO IMPROVE ITS IMAGE (AND THEREBY STRENGTHEN ITS BARGAINING POSITION) BOTH ON THE ISLAND AND INTERNATIONALLY."

17. IT CONTINUES: "SUPPORT OF HUMANITARIAN RELIEF WILL PROVIDE ECEVIT WITH A LOW-COST OPPORTUNITY TO REFURBISH TURKEY'S INTERNATIONAL IMAGE, AND THEREBY STRENGTHEN ITS BARGAINING POSITION ON ESSENTIALS." BULENT ECEVIT HAS SINCE STEPPED DOWN AS THE TURKISH PREMIER, AND HIS ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN REPLACED BY A CARETAKER GOVERNMENT.

18. WHILE THE STATE DEPARTMENT MEMO WAS WRITTEN ON AUG. 21, HIGH OFFICIALS DID NOT MENTION ANY SUBSEQUENT CABLES OR MEMORANDUMS THAT WOULD HAVE PROVIDED POLICY-GUIDANCE ON

THE REFUGEE ISSUE.

19. "RATIONAL GOVERNMENT BECOMES IMPOSSIBLE IF EVERY STAFF MEMO HAS TO BE JUDGED BY HOW IT WILL LOOK IN THE NEWSPAPERS, A SENIOR OFFICIAL SAID.

20. THE SENATE COMMITTEE'S REPORT ALSO TERMS AMERICAN CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE RELIEF EFFORT "TOKENISM." AS OF OCTOBER 1, THE UNITED STATES HAD ALLOCATED OR PLEDGED CLOSE TO \$6-MILLION. INGERSOLL UNQUOTE

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